In the Specification:

Page **26**, rewrite lines **3** to **13** as follows:

The reaction conditions include 0.2 µM of Fwd1 for the products of 3' specific cDNA and 0.2 µM of Rev1 for the products of 5' specific cDNA, 200 µM dNTPs, 40 mM Tricine-KOH (pH 8.7), 15 mM KOAc, 3.5 mM $Mg(Oac)_2$, 3.75 g/ml BSA, 0.005% Tween-20 (polyacetate), 0.005% Nonidet-P40, and 0.5 U Taq DNA polymerase in a final volume of 50 µl. The PCR reactions are carried out in a Perkin-Elmer 9700 thermocycler using the following thermal cycle parameters: 5 cycles comprising a denaturation at 94°C for 5 seconds, a hybridization of the primers at 72°C, 5 cycles comprising a denaturation at 94°C for 5 seconds, a hybridization of the primers at 70°C for 10 seconds, and an extension of polymerization at 72°C for 3 minutes and finally 25 cycles comprising a denaturation at 94°C for 5 seconds, a hybridization of the primers at 68°C for 10 seconds, and a polymerase extension at 72°C for 3 minutes.

Page **38**, rewrite lines **1** to **11** as follows:

The part of the cDNA encoding for heterocarpine is inserted at the BamH1/Xhol sites of the pQE-TriSystem (Qiagen) expression vector. The pQE-TriSystem vector contains the activating sequences of the cytomegalovirus (CMV) fused to chicken beta-actin promoter allowing a very significant heterologous expression. Human embryo kidney (HEK-293) cells are cultured in DMEM medium (Dulbecco's Modified Eagle's Medium) containing

100 U/ml of penicillin and 100 µg/ml of strptomycin sulphate, complemented with 10% foetal calf serum. The cells are sub-cultured 24 hours before the transfection protocol allowing normal metabolism of the cells and better transfection efficiency. The transfection of 1 µg of pQE-TruSystem containing the cDNA encoding for heterocarpine was carried out using Effectene® Transfection reagent according to the manufacturer's (Qiagen) recommendations.